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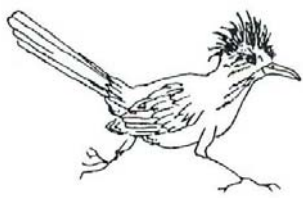
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Season 4, Volume 4

Big Bend National Park's Volunteer Newsletter

March 2005



Spring Volunteers

*PERSIMMON GAP

Joan & Jack Lamkin-Visitor Center

Terry Purvis-Visitor Center

*RIO GRANDE VILLAGE

Barbara & Bill Baldwin-Campground Hosts

Nancy & Ed Bump (new)-Campground Hosts

Nancy Dickerson & Ken Fields-Backcountry

Sam & Erv Drabek-Backcountry

Denise & John Curd-Visitor Center

Lee & Joe Pytel-Visitor Center

*CASTOLON

Samantha Schroeder-Campground Host/
Backcountry

Steve Harper-Campground Host/Backcountry

Mark Kirtley-Visitor Center

Stan Amick (new)-Visitor Center

*BASIN

Kay & Doug Combs (new)-Campground Hosts

Susan & Gary Esser (new)-Campground Hosts

Dori & Tom Ramsay-Visitor Center

*PANTHER JUNCTION

Scarlett & Bob Wirt-Science/Resource Management

Bud Frankenberger-Science/Resource Management

Diane & Gary Frable-River

Don Janes-Interpretative

Victoria Summy (new)-Volunteer Assistant

Joseph Webb (new)-Science/Resource Management

Nancy Daniel-Science/Resource Management

Greg Levandoski-Science /Resource Management

*PART-TIME VOLUNTEERS

Judy Brinkerhoff-Science/Resource Management

John Davies-Visitor Protection

Meghan Hicks-Interpretation

Steve Wick-Archeology

Reine Wonite-Administration



Park staff and volunteers discuss preparations for the influx of visitors to Big Bend during Spring Break.



Updating the bulletin board at Rio Grande Village campground is VIP Denise Curd.



Spring Break is also a time for many groups to volunteer at Big Bend. Pictured above is a group of high school students from San Antonio.



Campgrounds will be filled to capacity during Spring Break. Nancy Bump, campground host, reassures a camper there will be space for his RV.

SPRING BREAK PREPARATION!

Patrolling park trails on horseback keeps VIP Samantha Schroeder busy during Spring Break.



Big Bend Volunteers In Action!



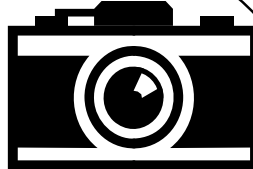
For many visitors, VIP Terry Purvis at Persimmon Gap is the first person they talk to to receive information about Big Bend.



VIP's Gary & Diane Frable gather camping equipment and canoes for a group going on a river trip. The Frables shuttle groups and also give helpful hints about canoeing.

Wanted!

Pictures of VIPs either volunteering and/or having fun are wanted for the APRIL newsletter. You may either bring the pictures to Vicky at Angelina's office or email jbwvsshme@yahoo.com
Thank you!



"Just keep on smiling!" works for RGVcamphosts Barbara & Bill Baldwin.



Helping to organize magazine articles for the Interpretive Library is VIP Joan Lamkin.

Checking back-country campsites and permits near Bouquilles Canyon are VIPs Sam & Erv Drabek..



As part of her volunteer museum curator duties, Scarlett Wirt monitors & services the hygrothermograph in the resource management library. The hygrothermograph, which records temperature and relative humidity, is an important tool in preserving museum materials.

Big Bend Volunteers In Action!



Mark Kirtley assists a visitor in filling out the bird sighting form at Castolon Visitor Center.



"Medicine in Your Own Backyard" presentation by SCA, Susie Douglas peaks the interest of visitors and also volunteers Nancy Daniel and Lauren Seidman.



"Can you help me identify a large, round, thorny plant with, etc...?" inquired a visitor to SCA Lauren Seidman.



Preparing to begin his interpretive talk about Terlingua Abajo is VIP Bob Wirt. Talking about the human history of BB is especially rewarding for Bob.



What material is used in chewing gum, lip balm and cold cream? In her interpretation program SCA Dorita Brady explains the answer is the candellia plant. Other SCA's Steven & Susie listen carefully.

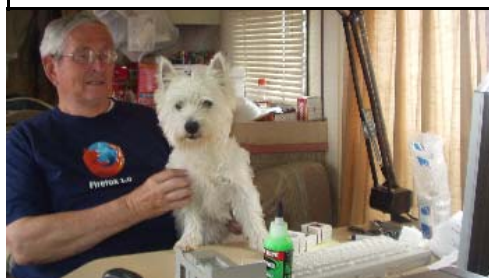


Locating & photographing fossils for Don Corrick is VIP Steve Wicks contribution to Big Bend.



Working with his computer equipment to digitize park slides is VIP Don Janes. Dog "Why" supervises Don's work.

Questions such as "Why can't we have wood fires?" are answered by Basin campground hosts, Susan and Gary Esser.



Taking pictures & GPS locations of vegetation sites throughout the park is VIP Bud Frankenberger.

Volunteer Youth Do The "Buffel Shuffle"

On February 18, Boy Scout Troop #682 and their leaders traveled from El Paso to Big Bend to participate in a volunteer project.



The group of 16 boys and 3 leaders arrived at the park about midnight, caught a bit of sleep and then reported to Allison Leavitt to learn all about doing the "Buffel Shuffle".

Meeting the boys at mile marker #1 on the Ross Maxwell road, Allison was prepared to explain about buffelgrass. The boys soon learned that buffelgrass was brought to America from Africa with the idea this grass would be good in desert climates. Unfortunately, the grass does grow easily but chokes out native vegetation such as threatened cactus species.

Allison gave the boys some hands on examples of buffelgrass to distinguish it from other similar native grasses.

By now the boys were eager to get started doing their part to help the park. Allison demonstrated the steps were to: pick a shovel, put on gloves and a safety vest, dig and shuffle



around the buffelgrass clump and listen for the "pop" sound of the buffelgrass popping out of the ground. The boys and leaders split into groups and worked to rid the roadway of the buffelgrass.

After several hours, the boys were proud of their large piles of buffelgrass ready to be bagged and hauled away. Another volunteer project completed to help protect our desert at Big Bend from exotic plants.

Thank you El Paso Boy Scout Troop #682 for giving your time and effort to Big Bend NPI!



And, how many ways can you serve SPAM??

We learned the answer to this at the March 1 VIP

"SPAMORAMA" Potluck!

As the various potluck dishes were put on the table, people gathered to read the labels such as "SPAM Pizza", "SPAM Croquettes", "Fried Rice & SPAM",



"SPAM Layered Cornbread", "SPAM Mole" and even "SPAM Brownies"—whoops just kidding! Thank you to everyone who brought SPAM dishes and other non SPAM goodies!

Minds were at work

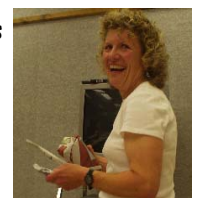


solving the SPAM crossword puzzle. In a collaborative effort the Pytels & Curds finished first and were the winners of the stress pig Spammy.

And of the course the door prizes were all of the SPAM nature! We'll expect to see some of those displayed as Sharon wears her SPAM

bandana,

Susan swats flies with her SPAM fly-swatter, Nancy Bump opens bottles with her



SPAM opener and Colm writes with his SPAM pen.



Thank you volunteers and staff for coming to the March VIP Potluck and having fun together!!



Angelina gives instructions to Kay on the correct technique for life-saving breaths. Jack and Doug watch & wait for their turn.



Dorita helps "victim" Lauren. (left) Checking for "signs of circulation" and deciding on the appropriate way to help is Lee Pytel.



Volunteers Participate to Save Lives at BB!

On February 25 & 28, seventeen volunteers were trained and certified or recertified in Heartsaver CPR and AED for adults, children and infants. Instructors Angelina Yost, Scott Jacobs and Meghan Hicks were helpful



Susan gives CPR while Gary & Dori observe. Instructor Meghan looks on and offers encouragement.

and patient as we practiced our skills of giving CPR and attaching the AED to "stiff patients" and helping "pretend" victims who were

choking.

Applying the correct technique to help a choking infant is Doug Combs.



At the end of the day, we congratulated each other on passing the written test and more importantly we gained confidence and knowledge in our skills to help

High School Juniors Endure Long Bus Ride to Volunteer at Big Bend



After traveling Antonio to Big Bend, the entire junior class spent two days volunteering at Big Bend. As a comprehensive magnet high school, the International School of the Americas is one of six high schools in the North East Independent School District.

Students are required to complete 120 hours of community service before graduation. The opportunities for community service vary from student to student. It is a commitment of the International School of the Americas to strengthen the partnership between the school and the community through community involvement and volunteerism. Student involvement is important to further the goals of citizenship, community relations, understanding, and real-world experiences for students.

Students were divided into groups to help in Science and Resource Management and in Recycling. Each group had the opportunity to learn why and how volunteers make a difference at Big Bend National Park.

many miles from San



BB employee, Annie Coe, explains the importance of recycling and how this affects the landfill at Big Bend. Students look on as they learn how to sort plastic containers.



Students dig and bag buffle grass as Park Botanist, Joe Sirotnak, explains why this must be eliminated from the park.



Raymond Skiles, Wildlife Biologist, and students clear brush from Rio Grande Campground marsh. The brush will be repositioned to another area of the park and used as mulch for grass.

Meet New Volunteer Stan Amick Castolon Visitor Center

As he remembers it.....

Young Stanley Amick was reported to have fallen off a 20-mule team borax wagon being pulled through Death Valley sometime previous to the Reagan administration. Unfortunately for



him, he was found by an early nomadic group of feminists, who held him against his will and beat him unmercifully for failing to recite their favorite passages of "Our Bodies—Our Selves". After his escape, not being politically astute, he fled to Canada to avoid the introduction of the American Motors Gremlin. He returned to the US only after being convinced "The Monkees" were a legitimate band, and not a product of Hollywood hype. Following the

divorce, Stan settled into a more relaxed pattern of watching "The Young and the Restless" and taking cruises. Now older and still somewhat confused, he alternates spending time kicking cactus in the desert and failing to yield at intersections.

As his mother sees it....

He grew up in a small town in Southeast Kansas and graduated from a private liberal arts college, Baker University. He spent 15 perfectly good years keeping chickens and bees while my friend's children were getting "real jobs with real people". After the failure of his "silly little whole foods grocery store" Stan was rescued by early scattering of "earth muffins". He then spent about 4 years cultivating Illinois bundleflower and Eastern-Gammagrass before taking the train to Big Bend National Park and being injured in a vehicle accident on the way home. This led to an insurance check and Stan watching too much daytime TV. With any luck he'll stay where he's at and leave us good hard working folks alone!



A visitor at the Castolon Visitor Center reviews her plans with VIP Stan Amick as he writes her backcountry permit.

COMING EVENTS

***March 25 Volunteer Award Dinner**
Panther Junction Community Room
6:30 p.m. Dinner
RSVP 477-1195

***April 9 Family Fun Day**
Check the back bulletin board if you would like to sign up to help.

***April 11 VIP Potluck**
6:30 p.m.

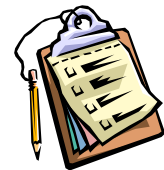
PJ Community Room
Bring a dish that reflects your ethnicity, home state or personality!

***April 22-23 Cancer Relay for Life**
Contact Meghan Hicks at 477-2419



And more Spring Break preparations....SCA Lauren receives instructions from Ranger Eric Leonard about setting up the backcountry permit writing area.

Volunteer Notes



1. Submit your **Record of Hours**

Worked report each month to Angelina or Vicky. Reports are due no later than the third of each month! Thank you

2. Turn in your receipts and reimbursements to Angelina for her signature. It will take at least a week for your check to be processed. Check with Terry Boren, Administrative Officer, M-F, 8-5 to receive & sign your check.

3. If you are completing your volunteer time in March, please return uniforms, etc. to Vicky.

4. Do you have pictures of VIP's at work or play, idea for an outing or corrections for the newsletter? Please contact Vicky at 477-2679 or email jbwsshome@yahoo.com Thank you!